

Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 13, 2007 has been received and carefully considered. Claims 15-19 and 24-25 are pending. In the Office Action, claims 15-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,388,124 to Henry (Henry); claims 15-25 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over each of U.S. Patent No. 6,444,057 to Darolia *et al.* (Darolia) or U.S. Patent No. 6,051,083 to Tamaki *et al.* (Tamaki). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Amendments to the Claims.

Claims 15, 19 and 25 are amended to more particularly claim the invention by affirmatively incorporating a step of substituting in the method. Support for the amendment is found at least at paragraphs [0019], [0025] and throughout the specification as originally filed. No new matter is presented. Claims 20-23 are cancelled without prejudice.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 15 and 19 have been amended to more specifically and affirmatively recite that the method for selecting a reduced-cost nickel-base superalloy includes a gas turbine engine component of the first nickel-base superalloy composition as claimed being substituted with a modified nickel-base superalloy composition as claimed. Claim 25, as previously presented, also incorporated an affirmative step of “substituting” in the method claim. However, the current Office Action does not specifically reference the “substituting” step of claim 25 nor is any such teaching of the substitution of the first nominal composition with the second composition found in any of the cited references and Applicants prior arguments are incorporated here.

Because none of the three cited references teach or fairly disclose the claimed step of substituting with respect to the specific initial and modified compositions as recited in the claims, the current outstanding rejections are rendered moot by the claim amendments.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Application be allowed and passed to issue. In the event any outstanding issues remain, Applicants would appreciate the courtesy of a telephone call to Applicants' undersigned representative to resolve such issues in an expeditious manner.

This Paper has been filed within three months of the mailing date of the Office Action and it is believed that no fees are due with the filing of this paper. In the event that Applicants are mistaken in their calculations, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct any fees determined by the Patent Office to be due from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 13, 2008

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